



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Public Instruction  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

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\*\*\***NEWS RELEASE**\*\*\*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Summer Food Service Program seeks sponsors

MADISON—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster announced that the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is seeking sponsors for a program that provides free meals to economically disadvantaged children during school summer vacations for the 2007 program year.

“The Summer Food Service Program provides free meals to children who might otherwise go hungry,” said Burmaster. “In many communities, the program is offered along with educational, developmental, and recreational activities that help children continue to learn and stay safe when school is not in session. The meals act as magnets to draw children to activities that also benefit their academic and social skills.”

The DPI has administered the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) since its inception in 1975. The agency contracts with public and private schools; nonprofit organizations; city, county, and tribal governments; and other organizations to feed low-income children during the summer months. Nationally, more than 28 million children eat school lunch daily when school is in session, and about half of them receive their meals free or at a reduced price because they are from families with low household incomes.

Last year, Wisconsin’s 96 summer food sponsors served approximately 1.5 million meals at 450 sites. Wisconsin also became one of 26 states to participate in the Simplified Summer Food Service Program, which has decreased the administrative burden on sponsors. The state realized an increase of almost 10 percent in participation from 2005 to 2006.

For the 2007 program year, sponsors may be:

- public or private nonprofit schools;
- public or private nonprofit residential camps;
- local, municipal, county, tribal, or state governments;

(more)

- public or private nonprofit colleges or universities that participate in the National Youth Sports Program;
- Upward Bound programs;
- libraries; or
- private nonprofit organizations (under special conditions).

Applications for the Summer Food Service Program will be completed on-line this year. The 2007 Training Registration and Training Materials Request Form is available at < <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/fns/training.html> > and must be mailed or faxed to DPI by Feb. 23. New sponsors are required to attend training on March 23 in Madison. Continuing sponsors for the 2007 summer program are invited to choose a training session on March 1 in Rhinelander, March 8 in Oak Creek, March 13 in Madison, or March 16 in Rice Lake.

Meals for the Summer Food Service Program must be served in accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, which prohibits institutions from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any U.S. Department of Agriculture-related activity should write to the USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Additional information about the Summer Food Service Program is available from Amy Kolano, (608) 266-7124, or on the DPI website at < <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/fns/sfsp1.html> >.

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**NOTE:** This news release is available electronically at < [http://www.dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2007\\_04.pdf](http://www.dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2007_04.pdf) >.